

Remarks

Applicant respectfully requests favorable consideration of this office action response and amendment, as well as consideration of the pending claims as amended herein. The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned by telephone to facilitate any remaining questions or issues.

Status of Pending Claims:

Claims 216-220, 222-229, 231-232, 235, 237-253, 258-260, 342 and 350 are pending in this application.

Claim 216, 218 and 245 are (Currently amended); support for the claim amendments are located in the instant specification: Figs. 2A, 5, 7, 8, 12, 15 and 17, along with §'s 004 and 116.

Claims 219-229, 222-224, 227-229, 231-232, 235, 237, 239-244, 247-250, 252-253, 258-260, 342 and 350 are (Previously presented).

Claims 217, 220, 225-226, 238, 246 and 251 are (Original).

Claims 1-215, 221, 230, 233-234, 236, 254-257 are (Canceled).

Claims 261-341 and 343-349 are (Withdrawn).

There are no claims which are (New).

Summary of Examiner's Claim Rejections:

Claims 216-220, 222, 224, 231, 235, 238-240, 243, 248-253, 258, 342, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US 4841731 (Tindell) in view of U.S. 7062912 (Penformis et al.). Claim 223 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US 4841731 (Tindell) in view of U.S. 7062912 (Penformis et al.) and U.S. 6588212 (Wallace et al.). Claims 231, 235 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. 4841731 (Tindell) in view of U.S. 7062912 (Penformis et al.) and U.S. 5516359 (Kang et al.). Claims 259-260, 350 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. 4841731 (Tindell) in view of U.S. 7062912 (Penformis et al.) and U.S. 6212876 (Gregory et al.). Claims 244-247 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. 4841731 (Tindell) in view of U.S. 7062912 (Penformis et al.) and U.S. 6698183 (Thordarson). Claims 225-227, 237, 241, 242, are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.